

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 FMC-01 COME-00 /055 W

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R 201150Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2536

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1071

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, US, UR, UK, FR, GW

SUBJECT: SOVIETS PROTEST ALLEGED ACTION BY FRG TO CLOSE  
SPREE-OLER SHIPPING CHANNEL IN WEST BERLIN

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR PROTESTED MAY 19 TO  
CHAIRMAN (US) POLAD THAT FRG SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
OFFICE IN HAMBURG HAS ILLEGALLY SOUGHT TO CLOSE  
TEMPORARILY SECTION OF SPREE-ORDER SHIPPING CHANNEL  
LOCATED IN WEST BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR KHOTULEV, ACCOMPANIED  
BY FIRST SECRETARY TIUTIUNOV, CALLED ON CHAIRMAN  
(US) POLAD MAY 19 TO PROTEST ACTION WHICH HE SAID  
FRG SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS REGULATORY OFFICE IN HAMBURG  
( WASSER AND SCHIFFAHRTS-DIRECTION NORD) HAD TAKEN  
WITH RESPECT TO TEMPORARILY CLOSING SPREE-ORDER  
SHIPPING CHANNEL TO UPRIVER TRAFFIC AT THE 13.1  
KILOMETER MARKER IN WEST BERLIN. READING FROM  
PREPARED RUSSIAN TEXT, WHICH HE LEFT BEHIND IN FORM  
OF NON-PAPER, KHOTULEV SAID THAT WASSER UND SCHIF-  
FAHRTS DIRECTION NORD( WSDN) HAD RECENTLY SENT TELEX  
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" TO ORGANS OF THE GDR" ADVISING THEM THAT SPREE-ORDER

WATERWAY WOULD BE CLOSED AT INDICATED POINT BETWEEN  
1400 AND 2100 HOURS DAILY BETWEEN MAY 18 AND 22.

3. KHOTULEV SAID SOVIET SIDE PROTESTED ACTIN OF WEST  
GERMAN ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITITS WHO WERE  
ATTEMPTING TO ASSERT DIRECT AUTHORITY IN AREA WHOLLY  
OUTISDE THEIR COMPETENCE. SOVIET STATEMENT CHARACTERIZED  
ACTIVITIES OF WSB, AS GROSS VIOLATION OF QUADRIPARTITE  
AGREEMENT, IN PARTICULAR THAT PART WHICH STATES  
" WSB NOT PART OF FRG AND IS NOT TO BE GOVERNED BY IT."

4. SOVIET STATEMENT FURTHER DESCRIBES EFFORT TO CLOSE  
SHIPPING CHANNEL AS ILLEGAL ACT WHICH MUST BE REVERSED  
IMMEDIATELY. SOVIET SIDE CONSIDERS ACTION BY HAMBURG  
OFFICE TO STAND IN CRASS CONTRAST TO LEGAL AND  
FACTUAL SITUATION IN WEST BERLIN. BERLIN. IT RUNS COMPLETELY  
CONTRARY TO LETTER AND SPIRIT OF QUADRIPARTITE AGREE-  
MENT. SOVIETS EXPECT THREE ALLIES WILL DO WHAT IS  
NECESSARY TO CORRECT SITUATION AND GUARANTEE COMPLETE  
AND STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH QA.

5. IN RESPONSE POLAD INDICATED THAT KHOTULEV'S  
PRESENTATION WAS FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF SUBJECT, WHICH  
APPEARED TO HIM TO BE RATHER A TECHNICAL MATTER,  
AND PROMISED HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. KHOTULEV, WITHOUT  
COMMENTING ON POLAD'S REMAKR NOTED THAT THIS WAS FIRST  
TIME THAT THIS SORT OF THING HAD EVER HAPPENED.

6. WE WILL INVESTIGAE IN WEST BERLIN TO DETERMINE  
WHO CLOSING OF WATERWAY INVOLVED AND WHAT TEXT OF  
WASSER UND SCHIFFAHRTS DIRECTION NORD TELEX TO GDR  
OFFICIALS ACTUALLY SAID TO DETERMINE WHETHER HAMBURG  
OFFICE WAS IN FACT SEEKING TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY OR  
WAS MERELY SENDING OUT ADVISROY TO SEAMEN. IF  
FORMER WERE THE CASE WE WOULD WANT TO FIND OUT ON  
WHAT BASIS IT WAS ACTING BEFORE TAKING ANY FURTHER  
STEPS. ONCE FACTS ASSEMBLED WE WILL HAVE BETTER IDEA  
OF WHAT RESPONSE TO MAKE IF ANY. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760196-0739  
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